

# Crowder Puts Baseball in Idlers Class

Status of Players to Await Appeal on Individual Case

## All Non-Productive Workers Must Serve

Clerks, Domestic Servants and Bartenders Under Ban

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Instructions to draft boards were issued today by Provost Marshal General Crowder explaining and amplifying the "work or fight" order, under which after July 1 all men of draft age, regardless of their classification, must engage in employment held to be productive or join the army.

"When it has been determined that a person in deferred classification is an idler or is engaged in non-productive service," says the instructions, "the classification and order number of such person will be withdrawn and he will be immediately inducted into the military service."

Several specific rulings are made as to the effect of the order upon certain classes named as non-productive, in the case of sports and amusements, the language of the order is repeated with emphasis, but without mentioning professional baseball, an expected announcement which had been awaited with keen and widespread interest.

In making public the instructions, officials of General Crowder's office said based on the previous ruling, that the classification of a person is regarded as non-productive, though there will be no ruling until an individual case has been appealed from a local board.

**Cooks Are Exempted**

Managers, cooks, clerks and other employees not engaged in the actual service of food and drink in public places are exempted from the section declaring such service of food and drink non-productive.

Store executive, managers, superintendents and heads of special departments, travelling salesmen, registered pharmacists, delivery drivers and men doing heavy work, such as carrying goods, are exempted from the classification of non-productive.

Chauffeurs, "public and private," are eliminated from the non-productive class, unless they engage in work held to be non-productive in addition to their mechanical duties. This feature of the instructions attracted attention, because it would class as a non-productive family chauffeur who performed no other service and would tend him into the army if he also acted as butler or handy man around the house.

The boards are directed to apply common sense in considering with-drawals of deferred classification pri-vileged persons, and in making necessary changes in employments by furnishing lists of those summoned or examination to the United States employment service.

**Regarding Baseball Players**

In an oral statement announcing the new regulations officials of General Crowder's office said "at present" the classification of a baseball player is regarded as non-productive, but until a case had been appealed from a local board there would be no ruling on the subject.

"Local boards will consider cases of withdrawal of deferred classification with common sense," General Crowder's instructions say, and they name as exempted from the classification of non-productive, "any person engaged in securing productive employment, or a change of residence as reasonable grounds for waiving the general order. Travelling salesmen will be considered as engaged in productive employment, but automobile salesmen in cities will not, it was explained. Public or private chauffeurs are held to be non-productive except when they combine their work with their mechanical duties."

Local boards are asked to assist registrants to obtain new employment service, and have power to postpone action while effort is being made to place men in occupations held productive.

**Operation of Order**

"When it has been determined that a person in deferred classification is an idler or is engaged in non-productive employment," the instructions say, "the classification and order number of such person will be withdrawn and he will be immediately inducted into the military service."

The regulations provide that persons engaged in the service of food and drink or either in public places, including hotels and social clubs, are engaged in non-productive employments. This, however, does not include managers, clerks, cooks or other employees, unless they are engaged in the actual serving of food and drink.

"The regulations further provide that passenger elevator operators and attendants and door men, foot men, carriage openers and other attendants in hotels and boarding houses, and in houses, office buildings and bath-houses are engaged in non-productive employments. The words 'other attendants' include wait boys and also includes porters, unless such porters are engaged in heavy work."

**Sports Attendants Barred**

"The regulations further provide that persons, including ushers and other attendants, engaged and occupied in and in connection with games, sports and amusements, excepting acts performed in legitimate concerts, operas, or theatrical performances, are engaged in non-productive occupations or employments."

"This includes, in addition to ushers and other attendants, all persons engaged and occupied in games, sports and amusements, except acts performed in legitimate concerts, operas or theatrical performances."

**Sales Clerks Affected**

"The regulations further provide that sales clerks and other clerks employed in stores and other mercantile establishments are engaged in non-productive employments, but this does not include store executives, managers, superintendents nor the heads of such departments as accounting, financial, advertising, credit, purchasing, delivery, receiving, shipping and other departments; does not include registered

pharmacists employed in wholesale and retail drug establishments, and does not include travelling salesmen, buyers, delivery drivers, electricians, engineers, carpenters, painters, upholsterers, nor any employee doing heavy work outside the usual duties of clerks. However, sales clerks and other clerks include the clerical force in the office and in all departments of stores and mercantile establishments. The words 'stores and other mercantile establishments' include both wholesale and retail stores and mercantile establishments engaged in selling goods and wares."

## 25,000 to 40,000 Men Here Are Affected by 'Work or Fight' Order

Between 25,000 and 40,000 men in New York City will be affected by Provost Marshal General Crowder's "work or fight" order, according to all the local boards, said Mr. Conboy, "The boards are now scrutinizing their registration lists and checking up on the men who after July 1 must do some kind of work or fight. I estimate the number will be between 25,000 and 40,000."

Draft officials predicted yesterday that the labor turnover will take place smoothly. Most of the industries affected have been preparing for it. Plants doing governmental work here report increasing numbers of applications from men of draft age.

**Hotels Hard Hit**

Hotels and department stores will be hardest hit by the ruling, according to representative men in those industries. While expressing their willingness to accept the order as a war measure, hotel men made no attempt to minimize their fears that the ruling will pinch seriously.

Between 5,000 waiters, 3,000 porters and 3,000 bellboys will be affected, according to Patrick V. Kyne, manager of Murray's and vice-president of the Society of Hotel and Restaurant Employees.

"While we want to help win the war and will cheerfully comply with the new order," said Mr. Kyne, "it will hit us pretty hard. It may even disorganize our restaurants and hotel business until we get our bearings."

"A state law prohibits the employment of men in serving liquor. That means most of us cannot use women as waitresses."

**Can Use Few Women**

"Another New York statute says hotels and restaurants can use women between 16 and 21, but only in certain capacities. These are check girls, scrubwomen, chambermaids and the ladies' maids. We can't use women waitresses. I estimate about 5,000 waiters will be affected. Porters and attendants numbering about 3,000 and approximately the same number of bellboys will have to go. While we will use women for these jobs during the war, we'll have to employ men over draft age at night."

Hiram Bloomingdale, of Bloomingdale, estimated the department of labor would lose about 10,000 men. "All the stores, however," he added, "have been preparing for this and will be in good shape by July 1. We will be able to assist waiting women over the draft age. We'll go on as usual."

**Saloons Not Worried**

William Burke, president of the Bronx Bartenders' Union, said: "I figure that the number of bartenders within the draft age working in New York City is not much over 1,000. Most of the saloon serving liquor are fellows with ten or twelve years experience. The ruling's effect on the liquor business will not amount to much."

Charles L. Stewart, general manager of the Automobile Dealers' Association of New York, said the automobile industry would suffer little. "As I understand it, the ruling will hit only our salesmen in general. Its effect on us will be negligible."

Downtown office buildings already are preparing for the change. In several buildings elevators serving liquor are fellows with ten or twelve years experience. The ruling's effect on the liquor business will not amount to much.

**777 Grammar Grade Men Sought for Army Classes**

ALBANY, June 21.—A call for 777 grammar school graduates with either mechanical aptitude or experience to volunteer for training to fit them for special branches of service in the army was made tonight by Adjutant General Charles B. Sherrill.

About five hundred will be sent to New York University and the rest to Mechanics' Institute, Rochester. Volunteers will be accepted until July 20, when, if necessary, the quotas will be filled by the draft boards. Men who registered June 5, 1918, will not be eligible under the call, it was announced.

## Democrats Stake All On Baker and Daniels

Congressional Candidates to Seek Election on Record of Their Achievements

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Democratic candidates for Congress will stand squarely upon the record of Secretaries Baker and Daniels, according to a statement issued by the National Committee here tonight. The opening of the campaign will be the first since the adoption of the Indiana Democratic State Convention at Indianapolis on Wednesday, June 19.

One of the paragraphs quoted from the Indiana platform is as follows: "We endorse the splendid work and achievements of Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, and denounce the sinister and systematic propaganda of falsehood and slander by the press and politicians calculated to undermine the effectiveness of the army and to deprive him of the confidence of the people and to embarrass him in meeting his heavy responsibilities."

Another paragraph says: "We endorse with pride the matchless naval administration of Josephus Daniels, who democratized the navy, secured from this department the efficiency never before equaled by American fighters on the sea."

**Fire in Ammonia Plant**

MOUNT KISCO, N. Y., June 21.—The explosion of an ammonia plant in the armory building early this evening started a fire which threatened a time to spread through the business section of the village. The firemen finally confined the flames to the one building. The loss will amount to more than \$5,000.

**200 Boys Wanted for Camp**

The Junior Training Camp Association, of 258 Broadway, still has room for about 200 boys at Camp John Pershing, which will open in Rockland lake Park on July 1.

## Burleson Pitted Against Daniels In Bone-Dry Fight

Senate Agricultural Committee Decides to Summon Cabinet Members

## Schwab To Be Heard

Randall Charges Democratic Plot to Postpone Action on Prohibition

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Wet and dry members of President Wilson's Cabinet will be pitted against each other before the Senate Agricultural Committee, if members of that committee carry out plans they discussed today. Albert S. Burleson, Postmaster General, will be summoned as the leader of the wets, partly as a result of his appeals on behalf, supposedly of the Administration, for the committee to drop the prohibition amendment. Secretary Daniels will be summoned as the leader of the dries.

Mr. Daniels will no doubt be well fortified with prohibition arguments, as he conferred more than two hours last night with William J. Bryan.

Besides deciding to hear the two Cabinet members, the Agriculture Committee voted to request the presence of Chairman Edward N. Hurley, of the Shipping Board, for whom Bainbridge Colby recently urged the committee not to approve the Jones dry amendment, and also Director General Charles M. Schwab, of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

The Jones amendment, now under consideration, forbids the sale of distilled liquor and the making of wine and beer during the war. Representatives of the Randall, of California, whose original amendment forbidding brewing and wine making during the war was killed by letters from the President and Food Administrator Hoover, today issued a statement charging the Democratic party was in a conspiracy, the principal object of which was to win the elections.

"I have received confirmation," said Mr. Randall, "through confidential sources, that high authority in the Democratic party has planned to postpone until after the election. My amendment to the food bill has precipitated a situation in the Administration which is properly described as pandemonium. The party in power is threatened by the liquor interests in the large cities with loss of the next House if prohibition is enacted now. On the other hand, failure to act is sure to cost the Democrats a score of country districts in the United States."

"This matter was discussed last night at a secret conference. I am sorry to say there were present some of the most famous Democratic prohibitionists in the United States."

It could not be learned if Mr. Randall had reference to the meeting at the La Fayette Hotel in which Mr. Bryan and Secretary Daniels participated.

**Refused Warrant for War Benefit Manager**

Assistant District Attorney Daniel Dineen applied to Magistrate McGeehan yesterday, in the Yorkville police court, for a warrant for the manager of the benefit entertainment staged in Madison Square Garden on Thursday evening by the War Hospital Entertainment Association. The Assistant District Attorney said that three defendants were being sought in connection with the entertainment, although restrained from taking action by an injunction obtained by the organization.

"I was there myself among the good people," said Magistrate McGeehan, "and I was glad to be there. It was a very fine tribute to the city and the affair was for a noble cause. I saw nothing illegal and I will not order an arrest or interfere with the opinion of the Supreme Court Justice Guy who sanctioned the entertainment by a court order."

## Suspension of Mail Zone Rates Sought

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Newspaper publishers, headed by George McAneny, of "The New York Times," vice-president of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, urged before the House Ways and Means Committee, at the hearing on the new war revenue bill today, that the zone system of increased second class postage rates, which goes into effect July 1, be suspended at least a year.

Mr. McAneny said that the present second class rates constitute a present paper subsidy, and said no need had been shown for an increased rate for newspapers. He said he spoke not for his own newspaper, but for five hundred, large and small; that the publishers want Congressional cooperation in considering the problem and are ready to receive any inequalities that may be shown.

Advertising, Mr. McAneny said, already is taxed as part of the newspaper's excess profit, and any attempt of newspapers to pass on advertising postage tax on to the advertiser would result in reduced value of advertising, seriously affecting both newspapers and advertisers, cutting down sources of tax revenue and checking the acceleration of business generally.

**House Passes Bill To Deport Anarchists**

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Without a dissenting vote the House today passed and sent to the Senate the alien anarchist deportation bill, authorizing immediate deportation of aliens subscribing in whole or in part to the tenets of anarchism.

The measure demands the immigration laws so as to remove the limitation on the power of the immigration authorities to deport an alien after five years' residence.

During the debate on the bill, Representative Robbins, of Pennsylvania, urged the death penalty for German sympathizers and propagandists in this country. In the first year the United States was in the war, he said, there were 134 fires and explosions, with a total loss of \$43,000,000, caused by "enemies of our government."

## Police School Suspends Closed Until End of War, Says Commissioner Enright

Thirty-nine young policemen, who have been attending the police training school the last three months, were sworn in to the department yesterday. Incidentally Police Commissioner Enright announced that there would be no more training school work done until the close of the war.

The training exercises were attended by more than 2,000 relatives and friends of the young officers. In presenting them with their patrolmen's badges, Commissioner Enright spoke briefly of the new responsibilities and promised that real merit would win them promotion.

## James Butler to Present Tarrytown Property to Marymount

Three properties in Tarrytown, owned by the estate of Sarah Hermann, were purchased yesterday by James Butler, who will present them to Marymount Convent, which was established several years ago by him as a memorial to his wife. The convent conducts a school for girls and is under the supervision of the religious order of the Sacred Heart of Mary.

The Hermann properties are valued at about \$175,000. They comprise a large country dwelling, formerly the home of the late Ferdinand Hermann and his two daughters, at Castle Ridge.

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## Draft Evader Gets 366 Days in Prison

Russell Storey Hubley, of 118 West Seventy-second Street, was sentenced to serve one year and one day in the Atlanta Penitentiary yesterday by Judge Augustus Hand in the Criminal Branch of the Federal District Court, when he pleaded guilty to having injured himself when he filed his questionnaire. He is the first man convicted of violation of the selective service regulations to be sent to Atlanta from the New York District.

Hubley is an actor. He registered on June 5, 1917, with Local Board 158. When he was called to file his questionnaire he claimed that he had a wife dependent on him and that he was put in a class with married men. To support his claim, Edna Clarke, with whom he had been living, signed a supporting affidavit. Judge Hand, however, found that he was not married to Miss Clarke, but that he had been married in 1905 to Marion Taylor, an actress, from Scranton, Pa.

The case was brought to the attention of Assistant Federal Attorney Ralph Horne, who secured indictments against Hubley and Miss Clarke. The woman was indicted for conspiring with him and will be tried next week.

## 500 Insurance Agents in Union, Says Organizer

Arrangements for agents who make the industrial collections for the big insurance companies, which specialize in these policies, to hold a meeting to discuss grievances against their employers and lay plans to organize a union, are being made by Assemblyman Charles B. Garfinkel, 990 Fox Street, The Bronx.

In face of the published announcement that agents of the John Hancock Insurance Company had held a separate meeting to start a strike movement of their own, a home office official of the company yesterday said the company knows of no dissatisfaction among its agents.

**Says Five Hundred Are Enrolled**

Assemblyman Garfinkel, who is directing the movement toward organizing the agents, last night said: "Five hundred agents of the three companies, the Metropolitan, the Prudential and the John Hancock, have become members. They each mailed \$1, the initiation fee, to me, and will pay 15 cents a week. There are 4,500 agents in this city, and I expect to obtain a 90 per cent membership before organizing the union."

Several strategy meetings have been held already, but our general meeting will not be for a few days.

"The men have no intention of striking, but simply desire to place themselves in a position to force the companies to grant better working conditions."

The Hancock official declared his company would ignore the reported action of its agents until they announce dissatisfaction with present conditions.

**Ten Per Cent Wage Raise**

"The Intelligent" Metropolitan Company's magazine, in a recent issue, quoted Haley Fiske, the company's vice president, as saying: "The length on the alleged dissatisfaction of its agents because they had not been granted an increase in wages similar to that given by the Prudential and the Metropolitan."

The magazine quotes Mr. Fiske as saying: "In 1917 the agents were paid \$2.38 a week more than before. That was a 10 per cent raise right there. Do you suppose that is all they want? I know that it is your fault or not telling them."

"If you have a kicking agent tell him that an increase of 10 per cent has been made to his income during the last year."

Mr. Fiske could not be reached at his office or by telephone, his secretary reported.

## Three Women Claim Him George von Auer Is Arraigned on a Charge of Bigamy

Three women were watchfully waiting in the Morrisania police court yesterday when George von Auer, a locomotive engineer, was arraigned on a charge of bigamy. They described themselves grimly as Mrs. Rose Viebig von Auer, Mrs. Helwig Beyer von Auer and Mrs. Josephine Semmler-almost-son.

According to their accounts, the first was married to the engineer on May 14, lent him money and lost him; the second was married to him on May 6, drank a cup of tea and broke up with him; the third was married to him on May 6, and also fell asleep unaccompanied in his bed. If they didn't know that it is your fault or not telling them.

Mr. Fiske could not be reached at his office or by telephone, his secretary reported.

## Judge Snitkin And Two Guilty in Draft Conspiracy

INDIANAPOLIS, June 21.—Following the announcement of a verdict of guilty this afternoon against Leonard A. Snitkin, Municipal Court Judge in New York, his brother, Maurice L. Snitkin, and A. Joseph Schur, both of Indianapolis, of conspiracy to obstruct the operation of the draft law, Judge A. B. Anderson, of the United States District Court, said sentences would be passed later.

The Snitkins and Schur were found guilty of conspiring to obtain exemption for A. Max Swartz, of New York, by arranging for him to come to Indianapolis for examination before a local conscription board, where Schur acted as government agent.

In his instructions to the jury Judge Anderson informed them that the only question they were to consider was whether Judge Leonard Snitkin was a member of the Indianapolis Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, should have the sole authority over his three sons, whose ages range from thirteen to seventeen years.

Mr. Bergh obtained a separation from Mrs. Ella S. W. Bergh, and in asking the custody of his sons he said:

"The conduct of my wife toward our sons, Henry Bergh, 34, Alfred, 25, and Roland, while not intended in any other than a well intentioned, motherly way, has been such as to absolutely ruin them from developing into manhood."

Mr. Bergh said that when his sons were between the ages of eleven and fifteen years his wife taught them to play Snitkin's game of Snitkin, while they were at a private school, it was recited, the mother of the boys sent them screens, so that they would not have to dress and undress in view of the other pupils. Mrs. Bergh also sent them football bats.

## Snitkin Long Identified With Tammany Affairs

Judge Snitkin has long been a familiar figure in Tammany affairs on the East Side. Fifteen years ago he was frequently engaged in defending criminals in the police courts.

In 1909 he was nominated by Tammany for the Municipal Court, but three years later charges were lodged against him with the grievance committee of the Bar Association and his name was dropped. These charges were based on language he was said to have applied to a landlord and his counsel in an eviction case. He term on the bench was for ten years and does not expire until December 31, 1919.

## Newbury to Remain in Race For Michigan Senatorship

DETROIT, June 21.—The campaign to secure for Truman H. Newbury, the Republican nomination for United States Senator to succeed William A. Denison Smith will not be interrupted by recent political developments in Michigan.

This was announced today by Paul H. King, executive chairman of the Newbury committee.

## Emerson Defence Unable So Far to Disprove Charges

Testimony of Chaney and Humphrey Relates Chiefly to Personal Honesty

## Trial in Fourth Week

Defendant Admits Prospectus Claims of Auto Company Were Overdrawn

The second day of the defence in the trial of the Emerson Motors case, now in its fourth week before Judge Martin T. Manton in the United States District Court here, passed with the main story set up by the government still largely unchallenged.

In the cases of both O. E. Chaney, stockbroker, and Henry B. Humphrey, Boston advertising man, who between them took up the bulk of the day on the stand, it was the legitimacy of their own connection with the Emerson enterprise rather than the soundness of that enterprise itself which their testimony sought to establish.

Mr. Chaney said he had come on to New York from the Coast after a correspondence with the defendant, N. F. Wilson. At first Wilson had set him to selling Federal Aircraft stock. Federal Aircraft, however, did not soar so high as they had hoped it would, he admitted, and so in the course of his campaign with the Emerson shares, he declared, he himself owned two Emerson fours, both of which took the road, one of them getting as far as Texas.

On cross-examination, however, James W. Osborne, 22, Assistant United States Attorney, brought out the fact that Mr. Chaney had admitted to the campaign with the Emerson shares, he declared, he himself owned two Emerson fours, both of which took the road, one of them getting as far as Texas.

Mr. Humphrey's examination was still incomplete when court adjourned last night. He was expected to continue his trial is resumed at 9:45 o'clock this morning.

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**Owning Two Emerson Cars**

Mr. Chaney testified that before he took up stock selling he was a newspaper editor. In the course of his campaign with the Emerson shares, he declared, he himself owned two Emerson fours, both of which took the road, one of them getting as far as Texas.

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**Hired Own Investigator**

During his stay on the stand Mr. Humphrey was emphatic in declaring that the unfavorable report on the Emerson concern which it has been proved was submitted to him by the defendant, took to handle Emerson advertising copy seemed to him to be based on mere hearsay and rumor. He hired William A. Morgan, the defendant in this case, for a verdict of acquittal has been directed, to investigate subsequently, he said, because Mr. Morgan was a man in whom he had confidence, based on his long experience in the advertising business.

Mr. Humphrey said he had been in the advertising business for thirty years, and Don C. Seitz, of "The New York World," and Louis Wiley, of "The New York Times," both took the stand as character witnesses in his behalf.

## Banker Bergh Wins Custody of 3 Sons

Justice Greenbaum, in the Supreme Court, yesterday decided that William C. Bergh, banker and nephew of the late Henry Bergh, founder of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, should have the sole authority over his three sons, whose ages range from thirteen to seventeen years.

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## Allied Day at Food Show

This is Allied Day at the Conservation Food Show in the Grand Central Palace. There will be speakers representing Great Britain, France and Belgium. The Stage Women's War Relief will give two performances of a playlet. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls will visit the show.

Arthur Williams, city food administrator, was the principal speaker yesterday. Blanche Bates appeared to play Holbrook Blinn in a playlet entitled "Food" to warn that Mr. Blinn's "food" hadn't agreed with him.

## Brooklyn Soldiers Sentenced

SPARTANBURG, S. C., June 21.—Sentences of one year in prison at hard labor have been given two Brooklyn soldiers—Irvin Kelly and Miller Martin Kelly, of the 53d Pioneer Infantry—for absence from their command without leave.

## Lieut. Simpson Held As Draft Obstructor

Lieutenant Oswald L. Simpson, who was indicted with Frank O'Neil, former Boxing Commissioner, was arraigned yesterday before Judge Hand in the Federal District Court and pleaded not guilty to a charge of conspiring to obstruct the operation of the selective service regulations. He was released in \$5,000 bail.

According to the prosecutor, Assistant Federal Attorney G. W. Taylor, Simpson, with O'Neil, Lieutenant Leiland A. Mitchell, of the quartermaster's department at Camp Upton, E. H. Cole and Samuel Reichbach conspired to obtain money from men of draft age on the East Side by telling them they could obtain their release from the army or have them placed in the quartermaster's corps, where they would not be forced to fight.

O'Neil appeared before Judge Learned Hand yesterday, when the grievance committee of the Bar Association reported on his case. He said he would not dispute the charges and would accept disbarment.

## Wilson Is Called Upon to End the 3d Term 'Menace'

Only Way U. S. Can "Double Time to Victory," Says George W. Pepper

ATLANTIC CITY, June 21.—George Wharton Pepper, an attorney of Philadelphia, and a leader in the pre-war preparedness movement called upon President Wilson to-night to "end the third term menace," so that America could "double-time" to victory. No President with a third term in mind, he declared, could formulate the broad war policies essential to complete victory. Mr. Pepper spoke at the convention of the New York State Bankers' Association in the Hotel Traymore.

"The single suggestion that I wish to press home," he said, "is this: This war cannot be won until the government of the United States adopts a complete and definite war programme and carries it out to the very end. The action of the American people. Nothing approaching this has yet been done. Until it is done people of this country will not do their utmost."

**Outlines Programme**

"Our needed war programme must have the greatest outside support. We must lay out for us the task of fighting Germany and all her allies in every part of the world. The programme must give us a definite minimum to work for, and it must be a definite minimum. It must accord such recognition to unity of Allied interests that all talk about the possibility of separate peace will at once be stopped."

"The programme must imply an absolutely patriotic and wholly unselfish Executive for its making and execution. We Americans of all parties and opinions wish to find these great qualities in our President. But while the thing is not much talked about, there is a widespread impression that party and political consideration still influence important action at Washington."

"And just at this crisis in the world's history comes definite and responsible suggestion that President Wilson should be a candidate for a third term. No President who was a candidate for a third term would dare announce such a programme as I have outlined. President Wilson has to-day said that he will not be a candidate for a third term. By an announcement of a real and comprehensive war programme he can set American democracy moving at double time, and by effecting the disposal of the third-term menace he can inspire the whole people to follow him to final victory."

**Time for Progress**

H. M. Jefferson, of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, an earlier speaker, declared that war necessitated putting banks on a military basis, in which only merit would win promotion from the ranks. He said that the bank, he said, for progress in other directions, such as social welfare work, pension funds and educational branches.

"This war must be won if it costs our all," said George L. Snitkin, New York State Superintendent of Banking. "Our minds and fearless hearts must be our resources. You must do even more than the state, and in the past you must do that which is disastrous to you. You must go into politics in a broad sense. You must attack the immoral financial legislation, which may be as disastrous as losing an army in France."

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# Food Prices to The Consumer

Some Profiteers We Have Not Met—Welcome the Bluefish Back to the Market

Edited by Anne Lewis Pierce, Director The Tribune Institute

## SHOULD FOOD BE FREE?

IT IS remarkable the state of mind that people get into when they begin to talk about food prices. Perhaps it is because food is essential to life, and having a constitutional right to life, along with liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we have subconscious feeling that food should be as free as water or air, or at least be provided at cost. But food has never been socialized, and is just as subject to the unemotional laws of cost of production and supply and demand as are diamonds. The following letter is typical of the righteous indignation, based on fatal half truths, which most of us bring to bear on food problems. The letter is perfectly sincere, and the writer honestly believes that the conundrums propounded are difficult to answer and the situation entirely indefensible.

Editor: While in Jersey yesterday I was told that strawberries were bringing 8 to 11 cents a quart to the farmer, picked. Upon my return to New York in the evening I passed a fruit stand near Grand Central Terminal and saw strawberries on sale for 50 cents a quart. At 20th Street near Post Avenue, they were selling for 30 cents. In other words, who is the name of heaven is getting the difference between the 11 cents and the 30 and 50 cents? Does it cost 21 cents to ship a quart of strawberries from Jersey to this city? You bet it doesn't.

The food administration tells us to eat vegetables and save bread and meat, and still it doesn't raise a finger to curtail profiteering of this character. At this same vegetable stand on 20th Street potatoes were selling for three cents a pound. A year ago they were 9 to 11, while strawberries were around 15 to 18 cents.

Now bananas are 5 cents apiece, cantaloupes 30 cents. While standing there a number of women made the remark that they couldn't afford to buy vegetables at that figure, while over across the river strawberries are rotting because they can't get buyers at 7 cents. It seems mighty funny that the authorities of this state are unable to follow a quart of strawberries from the field to the consumer and set a fair price on it. They did it with potatoes. Why not on all products?

Eat vegetables, those who can afford it. W. M. C.

First we start out with a rumor of an isolated case—a bad basis for a food generalization. It was an out-of-the-way farmer with a very poor lot of berries who could get only 8 to 11 cents for them this late in the season. The records show that the farmer near by has been getting 20 cents for good stock this month. They have been wholesaling for 15 to 38 cents a quart and retailing for 25 to 50 cents. Grand Central Station is always a bad place to pick berries. The rents affect them.

The crop has been about two-thirds that of last year and the season short. Strawberry prices to the jobber have ranged from 10 to 35 cents a quart, as compared with 7 to 25 cents last year. That the wholesaler and retailer each must make his profit and cover the loss on a highly perishable product. No one sells strawberries for love. The shipping of them is only one item out of several involved in the cost of the berries after they leave the farmer.

The most interesting point in the letter is the idea that the food administration should have handled strawberries as it did potatoes. This reminds us of the old conundrum: Why is an elephant like a clam? Answer: Neither one can climb a tree.

There is never any comparison possible between the cost of distributing a perishable luxury and a non-perishable staple product. Potatoes were a glut on the market. The supply greatly exceeded the demand; they were held back by weather and transportation conditions, and dumped on the market in excessive quantities. "W. M. C." flatters the food administration a little. They tried to keep potatoes down to the lowest possible price in order to effect the sale of the big crop and save wheat, but weather conditions and supply and demand lowered the price of potatoes, and these factors worked in the opposite direction to increase the price of strawberries. Furthermore, potatoes are a staple, eaten the year round in large quantities, and strawberries are a luxury, available for a short time and used in small quantities. There is every reason why the price of strawberries should have been high and the price of potatoes low.

Cantaloupes are only just coming into the market. Products of this kind, with a limited season, are always high when they are scarce, whether it be the beginning or the end of the season.

Only about 40 per cent of the usual shipments of bananas is permitted to come up from South America, because the ship bottoms are needed for wheat and meat. Would any man in any business sell his product at the same price if his output was suddenly limited to 40 per cent of the usual volume? Not so long as the instinct of self-preservation persists!

We are not saying that any of these things are ideal or that such conditions should not and could not be improved, but it will never improve them merely to shut our eyes and jump up and down and shout "Profiteer!" Food facts and their interpretation are not obvious—they are complex. The basic difficulty is with the system rather than with the individual. Hence our faith and our interest in co-operative buying clubs!

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